



DAILY INTERLAKE
KALISPELL, MT 59904
MON., FRI., 14, 291 SUN., 16, 136
MAY 12 2002

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Grace sets deadline for asbestos claims

The Daily Inter Lake

People who have asbestos property-damage or medical-monitoring claims against W.R. Grace must file claims by March 31, 2003, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court announced Friday.

Grace filed for protection under Chapter 11 of U.S. Bankruptcy Code a year ago. Meanwhile, federally funded cleanup is under way at sites in Libby contaminated by asbestos from Grace's former vermiculite mine near Libby.

Asbestos dust from the mine is blamed for widespread illness

and death of Libby mine workers, their families and community residents.

Asbestos property-damage claims include such things as the cost of asbestos removal, diminished property value or economic loss caused by asbestos in products manufactured by Grace or from vermiculite mine or processed by Grace.

Medical-monitoring claimants are individuals who may have had significant exposure to Grace vermiculite or asbestos products but don't have diagnosed asbestos-related personal injuries. These claimants may need medical examinations or

testing to detect possible future injury.

The deadline doesn't apply to asbestos personal-injury claims, settled claims or Zonolite attic insulation claims. These claims are subject to a separate claims submission process, according to Bankruptcy Court.

For complete information, including a claims bar date notice, proof-of-claim forms and instructions for filing a claim, call 1-800-432-1909, visit the Web site at www.graceclaims.com or write to the claims agent at W.R. Grace & Co Bankruptcy, P.O. Box 1620, Fairbault, MN 55061-1620.